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ABSTRACT

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been summarized on labor force participation and unemployment rates in 1971, of women 16 years of age and over, in the various census regions of the United States and in 10 large States and 20 large Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's); separate data also have been summarized for women of minority races. Women 16 years of age and over who were in the labor force in an average month in 1971 represented 43 percent of all women of that age range in the population and 38 percent of the total work force in the United States. More than half of all women workers in 1971 were in the 10 large States for which data are given (California--3.2 million; New York--2.9 million). Three SMSA's with more than a million women workers were New York City, Los Angeles-Long Beach, and Chicago. Proportionately more women of minority races than white women are workers; about half of all minority women workers were in the South in 1971. The unemployment rate for the country as a whole was 10.9 percent for minority women and 6.3 percent for white women; the gap between the unemployment rates for minority and white women was narrowest in the West and widest in the North Central States. (EA)

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Women Workers in Regional Areas and in Large States and Metropolitan Areas, 1971

The attached tables summarize the data available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on labor force participation and unemployment rates in 1970, of women 16 years of age and over, in the various census regions of the United States and in 10 large States and 20 large Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's). Separate data are available for women of minority races, except in one State and eight SMSA's where less than 50,000 minority women were in the labor force.

The 32,094,000 women 16 years of age and over who were in the labor force in an average month in 1971 represented 43 percent of all women of that age range in the population and 38 percent of the total work force in the United States (table 1). The proportion of women in the total work force varied only slightly among the four major regions of the United States, from a low of 38 percent in the North Central region to a high of 39 percent in the South.

More than half of all women workers in 1971 were in the 10 large States for which data are given. California and New York alone had 3.2 and 2.9 million women workers, respectively. The proportion of women to the total work force in these 10 States ranged from 36 percent in Michigan to 40 percent in Massachusetts.

The 20 large SMSA's include three with more than a million women workers each--New York, 1.8 million; Los Angeles-Long Beach, 1.4 million; and Chicago, 1.2 million. The proportion of women to the total work force ranged from a low of 34 percent in Pittsburgh to a high of 42 percent in Washington, D.C.

About half of all minority women workers were in the South in 1971. Of the remainder, about three-fourths were in the Northeast and North Central regions, in about equal proportions, and the other one-fourth were in the West.

Proportionately more women of minority races than white women are workers--labor force participation rates for the country as a whole were 49 and 43 percent, respectively. Consequently, among minority workers women represented a higher proportion of the total work force than was true of white workers--44 percent and 37 percent, respectively. The proportion of women among minority workers was somewhat lower in the West (43 percent) and higher in the Northeast (45 percent).

Among the individual large States and SMSA's for which data are available, the highest proportions of women in the minority work force were in the State of Florida (46 percent), and in the SMSA's of Washington, D.C. (49 percent) and St. Louis and Houston (47 percent each). Lowest proportions were in the State of Michigan and in the Detroit and San Francisco-Oakland SMSA's (41 percent each).

Unemployment rates in 1971 for women 16 years of age and over varied considerably both by race and by geographical area. For the country as a whole, the 10.9 percent rate for minority women was much more severe than the 6.3 percent rate for white women (table 2). The gap between the unemployment rates for minority and white women was narrowest in the West at 10.5 and 8.7 percent, respectively. It was widest in the North Central States, where the 13.6 percent rate for minority women was more than double the 5.7 percent rate for white women.

Among individual States and SMSA's, unemployment rates of 9 percent or more were experienced by white women in the State of California (9.1 percent), and in Los Angeles-Long Beach (9.7 percent) and Buffalo (9.0 percent). Unemployment rates of 14 percent or more were experienced by minority women in the States of Michigan (17.3 percent) and Ohio (15.6 percent), and in Detroit (16.6 percent), Cleveland (16.5 percent), and Houston and Los Angeles-Long Beach (14.7 percent each).

Table 1.--Women in Civilian Labor Force, by Race, Region, Selected States, and Selected Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1971 1/

(Women 16 years of age and over)

Region, State, and SMSA	Number (in thousands)			Women workers as percent of women in population			Women as percent of all workers	White women as percent of white workers	Minority women as percent of minority workers 2/
	Total	White	Minority races 2/	Total	White	Minority races 2/			
United States	32,094	27,989	4,105	43.3	42.6	49.2	38.2	37.4	44.0
Northeast	7,708	6,936	772	42.3	41.7	47.8	38.2	37.5	44.7
New England	2,010	1,931	79	46.5	46.3	52.0	39.7	39.5	46.2
Massachusetts	986	948	(3/)	45.7	45.6	--	39.9	39.7	--
Boston	465	441	(3/)	46.3	46.2	--	40.7	40.3	--
Middle Atlantic	5,698	5,005	693	40.9	40.2	47.4	37.6	36.8	44.5
New Jersey	1,124	987	136	41.9	41.2	47.6	37.3	36.4	44.6
Newark	293	238	55	41.9	40.8	47.8	37.3	35.8	45.1
Paterson-Clifton-Passaic	219	205	(3/)	42.0	41.8	--	36.4	36.1	--
New York	2,915	2,513	402	41.5	40.5	48.6	38.5	37.7	45.3
Buffalo	210	199	(3/)	41.2	41.4	--	39.0	38.9	--
New York	1,847	1,495	352	40.4	38.8	48.4	38.4	37.0	45.5
Pennsylvania	1,765	1,593	172	39.6	39.1	44.7	36.6	36.0	42.9
Philadelphia	740	579	161	40.9	39.3	47.8	37.6	36.0	44.4
Pittsburgh	315	289	(3/)	34.1	33.9	--	33.7	33.3	--
North Central	9,031	8,271	761	43.9	43.6	46.6	37.6	37.1	43.5
East North Central	6,521	5,887	635	43.4	43.1	46.6	37.4	36.9	43.1
Ohio	1,627	1,451	177	41.7	40.8	51.9	36.7	35.9	45.0
Cincinnati	172	152	(3/)	40.4	39.4	--	37.6	36.3	--
Cleveland	310	249	61	42.8	41.4	50.4	38.4	37.1	44.5
Illinois	1,821	1,599	222	44.5	44.7	42.9	38.4	37.7	44.3
Chicago	1,153	974	178	45.1	45.5	43.0	38.3	37.4	43.4
Michigan	1,319	1,165	154	42.1	41.7	45.8	36.5	35.9	41.4
Detroit	597	481	116	40.0	39.0	45.0	35.2	34.0	41.0
Wisconsin:									
Milwaukee	201	189	(3/)	44.2	44.0	--	36.7	36.7	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.--Women in Civilian Labor Force, by Race, Region, Selected States, and Selected Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1971 1/--Continued

(Women 16 years of age and over)

Region, State, and SMSA	Number (in thousands)			Women workers as percent of women in population			Women as percent of all workers	White women as percent of white workers	Minority women as percent of minority workers 2/
	Total	White	Minority races 2/	Total	White	Minority races 2/			
West North Central	2,510	2,384	126	45.2	45.1	47.0	38.0	37.7	45.3
Minnesota:									
Minneapolis-St. Paul	323	319	(3/)	50.0	51.0	--	38.9	38.9	--
Missouri:									
St. Louis	375	298	77	43.7	42.8	47.2	38.9	37.3	47.2
South	9,871	7,846	2,025	43.6	42.2	50.1	38.8	37.6	44.2
South Atlantic	5,040	3,871	1,169	44.8	42.9	52.6	39.8	38.6	44.4
Florida	1,078	893	184	40.0	38.0	53.5	39.0	37.8	45.8
District of Columbia	510	347	163	50.6	46.3	62.9	42.1	39.7	48.7
Maryland:									
Baltimore	325	227	98	44.8	43.7	47.6	40.1	39.5	41.5
East South Central	1,939	1,583	356	41.8	41.3	44.0	38.1	37.2	42.9
West South Central	2,892	2,393	499	42.9	41.7	49.5	37.6	36.4	44.4
Texas	1,792	1,557	235	44.7	43.7	53.4	38.0	37.2	44.8
Dallas	278	248	(3/)	50.5	49.6	--	38.6	38.1	--
Houston	324	245	79	50.9	48.9	58.5	39.7	37.8	46.7
West	5,483	4,936	548	43.6	42.8	51.8	38.0	37.5	43.4
Mountain	1,248	1,189	59	42.8	42.6	46.5	37.1	36.8	43.4
Pacific	4,235	3,746	489	43.8	42.9	52.6	38.3	37.7	43.4
California	3,203	2,852	351	43.7	42.8	52.9	38.2	37.7	43.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach	1,391	1,215	177	44.0	42.8	54.5	37.8	37.0	44.5
San Francisco-Oakland	594	501	94	47.7	46.9	53.1	40.1	40.0	40.9

1/ Annual averages. 2/ Includes all races other than white. Spanish-speaking persons are included in the white population. 3/ Civilian labor force less than 50,000.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2.--Unemployment of Women, by Race, Region, Selected States, and Selected Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1971 1/

(Women 16 years of age and over)

Region, State, and SMSA	Unemployment					
	Number (in thousands)			Rate		
	Total	White	Minority races 2/	Total	White	Minority races 2/
United States	2,222	1,775	447	6.9	6.3	10.9
Northeast	543	473	70	7.0	6.8	9.1
New England	159	147	12	7.9	7.6	15.1
Massachusetts	79	74	5	8.0	7.8	(3/)
Boston	32	30	2	6.8	6.7	(3/)
Middle Atlantic	384	326	58	6.7	6.5	8.4
New Jersey	80	67	13	7.1	6.8	9.7
Newark	20	14	6	6.8	5.8	11.3
Paterson-Clifton-Passaic	18	16	2	8.3	7.7	(3/)
New York	211	176	34	7.2	7.0	8.5
Buffalo	18	18	(3/)	8.7	9.0	(3/)
New York	124	94	30	6.7	6.3	8.4
Pennsylvania	102	90	12	5.8	5.7	7.0
Philadelphia	46	34	12	6.2	5.8	7.6
Pittsburgh	19	17	2	6.2	6.0	(3/)
North Central	575	471	103	6.4	5.7	13.6
East North Central	446	355	90	6.8	6.0	14.2
Ohio	124	96	28	7.6	6.6	15.6
Cincinnati	12	10	2	7.1	6.4	(3/)
Cleveland	27	17	10	8.7	6.8	16.5
Illinois	108	86	21	5.9	5.4	9.6
Chicago	66	51	14	5.7	5.3	8.0
Michigan	110	84	27	8.4	7.2	17.3
Detroit	60	41	19	10.0	8.4	16.6
Wisconsin:						
Milwaukee	7	5	2	3.5	2.6	(3/)
West North Central	129	116	13	5.1	4.9	10.3
Minnesota:						
Minneapolis-St. Paul	19	18	1	5.8	5.7	(3/)
Missouri:						
St. Louis	28	22	6	7.5	7.3	8.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.--Unemployment of Women, by Race, Region, Selected States, and Selected Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1971 1/--Continued

(Women 16 years of age and over)

Region, State, and SMSA	Unemployment					
	Number (in thousands)			Rate		
	Total	White	Minority races 2/	Total	White	Minority races 2/
South	615	399	216	6.2	5.1	10.7
South Atlantic	292	186	106	5.8	4.8	9.1
Florida	66	49	17	6.1	5.5	9.4
District of Columbia	14	7	6	2.7	2.1	3.8
Maryland:						
Baltimore	21	12	8	6.5	5.5	8.6
East South Central	124	79	45	6.4	5.0	12.5
West South Central	199	134	65	6.9	5.6	13.1
Texas	115	85	30	6.4	5.5	12.6
Dallas	14	11	2	5.0	4.6	(3/)
Houston	23	11	12	7.1	4.7	14.7
West	489	431	58	8.9	8.7	10.5
Mountain	93	85	8	7.5	7.2	13.1
Pacific	396	346	50	9.3	9.2	10.2
California	303	260	43	9.5	9.1	12.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach	144	118	26	10.4	9.7	14.7
San Francisco-Oakland	53	43	10	8.9	8.5	11.2

1/ Annual averages.
2/ Includes all races other than white. Spanish-speaking persons are included in the white population.
3/ Number unemployed is less than 5,000.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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